

Brookline Community Aging Network

Livable Community Advocacy Committee

Notes

October 23, 2017

Attendance: Frank Caro, John Harris, Irving Kurki, Susan Granoff, Shirley Selhub, Ann Stitt, and Jackie Wright, Caitlin Haynes (guest)

Senior Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Subcommittee. John Harris proposes that we establish a subcommittee concerned with pedestrian and cyclist issues. Based on the strong discussion of these matters at our last meeting, John believes that there is reason to establish a continuing subcommittee for focus on these topics. We discussed questions about how the committee would complement the efforts of the full LCAC and how it would relate to the Town's Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. John is interested in a connection for the committee with the Climate Action Committee. Susan Granoff argued persuasively that the subcommittee should also concern itself with some public transportation issues, especially where there is an interface between walking and using public transportation.

Frank encouraged John to go forward. Frank reported that when the LCAC was introduced, he proposed that it operate through subcommittees. He was unable to persuade committee members to divide into subcommittees. Frank believes that with subcommittees, we can dig into issues more deeply than we can if we operate solely as a committee of the whole.

John envisions that the subcommittee will meet between meetings of the full committee. He hopes to convene an initial meeting before the Dec. 4 meeting of the full committee.

ADA and Brookline sidewalks (Caitlin Haynes)

Caitlin Haynes is Brookline's Americans with Disabilities compliance officer. Caitlin used PowerPoint to provide an overview of the rights established by the ADA. She then focused on Pedestrian Access Routes with an emphasis on sidewalks. She outlined sidewalk standards that address width, surface stability, allowable slope, obstructions, and safety provisions at street crossings. Curb ramps are a major concern.

We discussed a number of potential obstructions including tree pits, mail storage units, and trash containers.

The study of Harvard Street and Beacon Street was done by a contractor. Data collection has been completed. The Town is waiting for a report.

The Town expects that extensive repairs will be needed. We discussed the role of advocacy to strengthen the likelihood that the sidewalks will be repaired and brought up to standard.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 4. Our main topic will be either re-zoning to permit taller residential buildings or financial insecurity in Brookline.

Notes prepared by Frank Caro